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COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

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Dear Mr. Chairman:

Enclosed are listings of prescribed drugs provided to recipients of old-age assistance in nursing homes under the Medicaid program in Illinois. This information was obtained pursuant to your request of July 22, 1971.

The information was furnished to us by officials of the Illinois Department of Public Aid in the form of computer printouts listing purchases by drug name, number of prescriptions, and amount paid during the first month of each quarter of calendar year 1970. With the assistance of a registered pharmacist on our staff, we grouped these drugs into 25 categories of drugs. The categories which we used are those contained in the American Hospital Formulary Service published by the American Society of Hospital Pharmacists.

As shown on schedule I, Central Nervous System drugs-- which include tranquilizers--represent about 35 percent of all amounts paid for drugs on behalf of nursing home patients during these months. On schedules II through V we have identified the specific types of drugs which account for the majority of the purchases under the Central Nervous System category.

Schedule VI consists of selected statistical information on the Medicaid and intermediate-care programs in Illinois for 1970 and schedule VII is a general definition of the drug categories used in schedule I.

In accordance with your request of July 22 and subsequent discussions with your office, similar information is being obtained in Ohio and New Jersey; when completed we will furnish you a report on the results of our work in all three States.

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We plan to make no further distribution of this report unless copies are specifically requested and then we shall make distribution only after your agreement has been obtained or public announcement has been made by you concerning the contents of the report.

Sincerely yours,



Acting

Comptroller General
of the United States

Enclosures-7

The Honorable Frank E. Moss
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Long-Term Care
Special Committee on Aging
United States Senate

S. 1316

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ILLINOIS MEDICAID DRUG PROGRAM

NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS AND AMOUNT PAID FOR DRUGS
 PROVIDED TO RECIPIENTS OF OLD-AGE ASSISTANCE
 IN NURSING HOMES FOR
 JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, AND OCTOBER 1970

<u>Category</u>	<u>Prescriptions</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Antihistamine Drugs	6,716	\$ 21,328.43
Anti-Infective Agents	20,503	103,455.06
Antineoplastic Agents	19	73.68
Autonomic Drugs	11,045	44,794.87
Blood Derivatives	-	-
Blood Formulation and Coagulation	4,430	9,623.40
Cardiovascular Drugs	26,689	81,836.27
Central Nervous System Drugs ¹	85,234	407,101.31
Diagnostic Agents	146	228.34
Electrolytic, Caloric, and Water Balance	24,636	96,896.38
Enzymes	302	2,288.26
Expectorants and Cough Preparations	3,884	8,842.61
Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Preparations	761	1,572.71
Gastrointestinal Drugs	32,650	108,458.43
Gold Compounds	-	-
Heavy Metal Antagonists	-	-
Hormones and Synthetic Substitutes	13,852	62,212.44
Local Anesthetics	-	-
Oxytocics	-	-
Radioactive Agents	-	-
Serums, Toxoids and Vaccines	3,429	10,056.74
Skin and Mucous Membrane Preparations	7,167	24,794.98
Spasmolytic Agents	3,228	10,398.80
Vitamins	29,929	84,984.09
Unclassified Therapeutic Agents	109	638.65
Other Unclassified Drugs ²	19,104	85,774.24
Total	293,833	\$1,165,359.69

¹This category, which includes tranquilizers, represents about 35 percent of all amounts paid for drugs on behalf of nursing home patients.

²Includes drugs purchased under national formularies such as the National Formulary and U.S. Pharmacopeia; compounded prescriptions; specially approved drugs, and medical supplies such as cotton, gauze, syringes and hypodermic needles.

ILLINOIS MEDICAID DRUG PROGRAM

NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS AND AMOUNT PAID
 FOR CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM DRUGS
 PROVIDED TO RECIPIENTS OF OLD-AGE
 ASSISTANCE IN NURSING HOMES FOR
 JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, AND OCTOBER 1970

	<u>Prescriptions</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
GENERAL ANESTHETICS	-	-
ANALGESICS AND ANTIPYRETICS	23,666	\$114,943.22
NARCOTIC ANTAGONISTS	-	-
ANTICONVULSANTS	2,151	5,554.54
PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC AGENTS:		
Antidepressants	3,456	22,496.69
Tranquilizers	32,153	207,015.48
Other Psychotherapeutic Agents	186	1,367.54
RESPIRATORY AND CEREBRAL STIMULANTS	1,615	6,721.23
SEDATIVES AND HYPNOTICS	<u>22,007</u>	<u>49,002.61</u>
Total	<u>85,234</u>	<u>\$407,101.31</u>

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ILLINOIS MEDICAID DRUG PROGRAM

NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS AND AMOUNT PAID
FOR TRANQUILIZERS PROVIDED TO
RECIPIENTS OF OLD-AGE ASSISTANCE IN NURSING HOMES FOR
JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, AND OCTOBER 1970

NAME:	Prescriptions	
	Number	Amount
Combid	323	\$ 1,910.0
Compazine	1,179	5,313.9
Equagesic	189	1,423.8
Fluephenazine Dihydrochloride	181	1,157.5
Haldol	258	2,178.01
Hydroxyzine	1,321	10,384.23
Librax	246	1,577.79
Librium	3,265	21,351.37
Mellaril	6,854	53,526.51
Meproamate	1,738	7,346.58
Serax	227	1,542.32
Sparine	2,164	15,006.00
Stelazine	1,100	8,059.72
Thorazine	10,146	55,924.11
Trancopal	19	115.28
Trilafon	895	6,038.73
Valium	1,901	13,270.28
Vesprin	147	889.26
Total	<u>32,153</u>	<u>\$207,015.48</u>

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ILLINOIS MEDICAID DRUG PROGRAM

NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS AND AMOUNT PAID

FOR ANALGESICS AND ANTIPYRETICS

PROVIDED TO RECIPIENTS OF OLD-AGE ASSISTANCE

IN NURSING HOMES FOR

JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, AND OCTOBER 1970

NAME:	Prescriptions	
	Number	Amount
Acetaminophen	944	\$ 2,687.44
Analgesic balm	105	111.94
A.P.C.	291	314.98
Aspirin	237	279.28
Aspirin, buffered	539	797.14
Aspirin, enteric coated	2,276	6,449.56
Butazolidin	636	3,802.40
Codeine with aspirin, phenacetin and caffeine	1,104	3,079.14
Codeine phosphate	26	68.73
Colchicine	53	138.42
Crystoids	1	1.25
Darvon	1,790	9,087.60
Darvon compound	10,524	59,491.90
Darvon with A.S.A.	341	2,125.43
Demerol HCL	134	445.94
Dilaudid HCL	9	19.44
Fiorinal	236	709.36
Indocin	2,126	16,636.09
Leritine	5	16.42
Methadone HCL	6	16.26
Morphine sulfate	9	28.19
Pabalate	411	1,585.14
Pabalate--sodium free	844	3,579.33
Percodan	72	278.86
Sodium salicylate	637	1,620.97
Talwin	310	1,572.01
Total	23,666	\$114,943.22

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ILLINOIS MEDICAID DRUG PROGRAM

NUMBER OF PRESCRIPTIONS AND AMOUNT PAID

FOR SEDATIVES AND HYPNOTICS PROVIDED

TO RECIPIENTS OF OLD-AGE ASSISTANCE

IN NURSING HOMES FOR

JANUARY, APRIL, JULY, AND OCTOBER 1970

NAME:	<u>Prescriptions</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Amobarbital	277	\$ 545.53
Amobarbital sodium	325	711.99
Butobarbital sodium	1,306	3,157.47
Chloral hydrate	6,141	15,294.31
Doriden	2,964	8,419.60
Pentobarbital sodium	2,187	3,643.83
Phenobarbital	4,043	6,579.52
Placidyl	1,932	5,808.53
Secobarbital sodium	<u>2,832</u>	<u>4,841.83</u>
Total	<u>22,007</u>	<u>\$49,002.61</u>

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ILLINOIS MEDICAID DRUG PROGRAM

SELECTED STATISTICAL INFORMATION

ON ILLINOIS MEDICAID AND INTERMEDIATE-CARE

PROGRAMS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 1970

MEDICAID PROGRAM:		
Started		January 1966
1970 expenditures:		
Amount (millions)		\$200.6
Federal share (millions)		\$100.3
DRUGS:		
1970 expenditures:		
Amount (millions)		\$ 22.2
Federal share (millions)		\$ 11.1
Percent of total Medicaid expenditures		11.1
NURSING HOME CARE:		
Skilled nursing care:		
1970 expenditures:		
Amount (millions)		\$ 5.3
Federal share (millions)		\$ 2.7
Percent of total Medicaid expenditures		2.7
Patient days of care paid for		598,349
Intermediate nursing care: ¹		
1970 expenditures:		
Amount (millions)		\$ 62.6
Federal share (millions)		\$ 31.3
Patient days of care paid for		7,773,530

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¹ Provided to eligible persons not in need of skilled nursing care but in need of more intensive care than that provided in residential facilities.

GENERAL DEFINITION OF DRUG CATEGORIES

Antihistamine Drugs--Products used to alleviate the symptoms of hayfever, allergy, and the common cold.

Anti-Infective Agents--Products used in the treatment of bacterial and viral diseases.

Antineoplastic Agents--Products used in the treatment of cancer.

Autonomic Drugs--Products whose primary effect is on the nervous system and includes drugs used to treat abnormalities in smooth muscle tone and certain abnormal eye conditions.

Blood Derivatives--Products used in blood replacement.

Blood Formulation and Coagulation--Products used to enhance formation of blood cell products and components, including the treatment of anemia and the treatment and prevention of blood clotting.

Cardiovascular Drugs--Products used to treat abnormal blood pressure, heart congestion, and cardiac insufficiency.

Central Nervous System Drugs--Products whose primary effect is on the brain and are used to excite, sedate, tranquilize, or relieve pain.

Diagnostic Agents--Products used to diagnose diseases and in laboratory analysis.

Electrolytic, Caloric, and Water Balance--Products used to restore water balance of body fluids. Also, products are used to help eliminate abnormal water retention in tissues.

Enzymes--Products derived from naturally occurring substances and generally used to expedite or retard a natural body process. Frequently, these products are also used to treat undesirable blood coagulation.

Expectorants and Cough Preparations--Products used to alleviate coughs and to break up excessive sputum.

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Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat Preparations--Anti-infectives, anti-inflammatories, and pain reducers used in treatment of eye, ear, nose, or throat disorders.

Gastrointestinal Drugs--Drugs used to treat hyper-acidity, diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting.

Gold Compounds--Products containing gold and generally used in treatment of rheumatoid arthritis.

Heavy Metal Antagonists--Products used primarily to treat certain types of poisoning.

Hormones and Synthetic Substitutes--Products used to treat hormonal deficiencies, inflammations, diabetes, and thyroid conditions.

Local Anesthetics--Preparations used for relieving pain on body surfaces, joints, and mucous membranes.

Oxytocics--Products used to control or induce uterine contractions.

Radioactive Agents--Radioactive products used most frequently as diagnostic agents or tracers.

Serums, Toxoids, and Vaccines--Naturally occurring substances generally used to treat or prevent infection and to treat certain types of poisoning.

Skin and Mucous Membrane Preparations --Products used to treat infections, inflammations, and itching of the skin.

Spasmolytic Agents--Products which act largely on smooth muscle tissue in treating asthma and occasionally in treating gastrointestinal disorders.

Vitamins--Products used to supplement body enzymes.

Unclassified Therapeutic Agents--Products of naturally occurring substances which are not classified elsewhere.

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